

vania border was set at a point 15 miles south of the southernmost point of Philadelphia. However, when surveyors were appointed to run the lines a remarkable discovery was made. The Cape Henlopen referred to in the agreement was found on the map to be, not opposite Cape May, but 20 miles down the coast at the point known as Fenwick Island; and the true Cape Henlopen was referred to on this map as "Cape Cornelius."

Baltimore immediately repudiated the whole agreement, claiming that a line due west from Henlopen, or Lewes, was the true southern boundary of Delaware. How the "false map" became inserted in the 1732 Agreement is still a matter of historical discussion, each side claiming the other prepared it. The Penns filed a suit in an English court for specific performance of the Agreement in accordance with the disputed map. This historic suit dragged through the courts of England for 15 years and finally ended in a complete victory for the Penns. The court appointed commissioners to mark the boundaries accordingly.

But this was not all. The commissioners themselves were unable to agree on any controversial points. The local surveyors employed to run the lines were found completely unequal to the task. Finally, after 13 more years of frustrated efforts, two English surveyors were brought over to finish the job. These were Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, well-known mathematicians and astronomers. Mason and Dixon first went to Philadelphia and determined the southernmost point of the city. Then they established their line 15 miles below that point, in accordance with the 1732 Agreement. Next they proceeded to the southern boundary of Delaware which they ran through Fenwick Island in recognition of the "false map," as Maryland has always called it. From there they struck a straight line west to the middle of the peninsula, which they verified, and then began the northern or tangent line which is now the boundary between Maryland and Delaware. When they reached the New Castle circle they then headed due west to draw the present Maryland-Pennsylvania border.

While this boundary dispute with Pennsylvania ran for 88 years and was not finally settled until just before the Revolutionary War. Maryland's series of border controversies with Virginia began with the granting of Lord Baltimore's Charter in 1632 and were not concluded until an act of Congress settled the last contest in 1879. In closing, let me mention this final border contest. It not only was the longest and last dispute to be settled, but it was of particular significance to me personally.